

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN NEW YORK 1979 ACTION SECSTATE 10 JUN 75

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XO, PARM

SUBJECT: INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE (IOPZ) AND CONFERENCE OF
LITTORAL AND HINTERLAND STATES

SUMMARY: INFORMAL MEETING AT UN OF LITTORAL AND HINTERLAND
STATES OF INDIAN OCEAN IS SEEKING ATTENDANCE OF US, UK, SOVS AND
FRANCE TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF HOLDING CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER
INDIAN OCEAN AS PEACE ZONE. END SUMMARY.

1. FIFTEEN MEMBER AD HOC COMMITTEE ON IOPZ RESUMED DELIBERATIONS
5 JUNE IN MEETINGS SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE THRU 20 JUNE. ITEMS ON
AGENDA ARE (1) DEFINITIONS, AND (2) QUESTION OF POSSIBLE CONVENING
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OF A CONFERENCE OF LITTORAL AND HINTERLAND STATES TO CONSIDER PEACE

ZONE ISSUE. (REF UNGA RES 3259A (XXIX), PARA 4.)

2. AD HOC COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN (AMERASINGHE) CONVENED AS INFORMAL MEETING OF LITTORAL AND HINTERLAND STATES 9 JUNE TO DISCUSS AGENDA ITEM 2. REPORTEDLY MEMBERSHIP (ABOUT 30 ATTENDED) REQUESTED AMERASINGHE TO APPROACH FOUR NON-MEMBER NUCLEAR STATES (UK, US, FRANCE AND USSR) TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THEY WOULD JOIN THESE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS TO CONSIDER AGENDA ITEM. AMERASINGHE REPORTEDLY THEN REQUESTED SECRETARIAT TO NOTIFY EACH OF FOUR MISSIONS THAT HE WOULD BE SEEKING APPOINTMENTS WITH THEIR AMBASSADORS LATE THIS WEEK TO POSE QUESTION OF THEIR JOINING DISCUSSIONS DURING WEEK OF 16 JUNE. SECRETARIAT (CORRADINI) NOTIFIED USUN OF ABOVE LATE 9 JUNE.

3. UK MISOFF (LOGAN) TOLD US THAT THEIR INITIAL REACTION WAS NEGATIVE, AS WAS THAT OF FRENCH, BUT BOTH ARE REQUESTING INSTRUCTIONS. (SOVS, ACCORDING TO CORRADINI, WILL BE APPROACHED EARLY 10 JUNE.) JAPAN AND CHINA WERE ALSO INVITED TO ATTEND BUT JAPANESE MISOFF (OSHIMA) SAID INVITATION WAS FOR PARTICIPATION "AT APPROPRIATE STAGE." THUS JAPANESE ARA UNCERTAIN OF STATUS AND WILL KEEP DISTANCE AND ATTEND ONLY AS OBSERVERS UNTIL MEETING DECIDES WHAT EXACTLY IT IS SEEKING.

4. AUSTRALIA MISOFF (KEVIN) ADDED THAT THERE WAS A CONSENSUS AT MEETING THAT CONFERENCE SHOULD BE HELD. KEVIN SAID MOST THOUGHT 1977 WOULD BE APPROPRIATE BUT AMERASINGHE APPARENTLY IS UNDER SRI LANKA INSTRUCTIONS TO CONVENE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. AUSTRALIANS BELIEVE IT PREMATURE TO FIX ANY DATE UNTIL DEFINITIONS, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE MORE CLEARLY DEFINED. (BANGLADESH, IAR, BURUNDI AND RWANDA HAVE ALSO BEEN INVITED.)

5. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FOR AMBASSADOR'S REPLY TO AMERASINGHE INVITATION TO ATTEND INFORMAL MEETING OF INDIAN OCEAN LITTORAL AND HINTERLAND STATES TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF HOLDING A CONFERENCE OF THOSE STATES TO DISCUSS IOPZ.

6. COMMENT: WE PROPOSE, AS COURTESY TO AMERASINGHE, TO RECEIVE HIM AT USUN. IF HE SEEKS APPOINTMENT, BUT THINK WE SHOULD FIRMLY DECLINE INVITATION TO ATTEND. WE MIGHT REFER TO OUR CONSISTENT ABSTENTION ON IOPZ AND PROBLEM WE HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH IDEA OF SPECIAL ZONES THAT WOULD CONFLICT WITH ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL LAW RE HIGH SEAS.

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